

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the commentary below.

II. Status of the Claims

No claims are amended. Claims 1-6 are pending and claims 5 and 6 are withdrawn by the Examiner as being directed to non-elected subject matter.

III. The Office Action

Claims 1, 2, and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by, and claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being allegedly obvious over, U.S. Pat. No. 5,218,757 to Kaneko ("Kaneko"). In maintaining these rejections, now made final, the Examiner argues, in essence, that Kaneko discloses a carbon microelectrode that can detect substances obtained from or secreted by cells. On this premise, the Examiner concludes that Kaneko teaches or renders obvious the claimed carbon microrod having a cell absorbed thereto. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Kaneko does not teach or suggest the claimed invention because the disclosed electrode that electrochemically detects substances secreted from cells is of no relevance whatsoever to an electrode to which a cell is physically adsorbed. The Examiner notes correctly in this regard that Kaneko teaches a "tapered carbon microelectrode . . . used for detecting dopamine in the presence of vitamin C." Kaneko at col. 9, ll. 20-22.

While dopamine may be a type of catecholamine that is secreted from nerve cells, *id.* at ll. 23-24, nowhere does the reference teach or remotely suggest by way of this passage or others that a cell is or can be adsorbed to the disclosed carbon microelectrode. At best, Kaneko teaches that the carbon microelectrode simultaneously detects dopamine and vitamin C in solution. *Id.* at ll. 29-41. This is plainly distinct from having a cell adsorbed onto a carbon microrod as claimed.

Because Kaneko neither teaches nor suggests the invention, Applicants respectfully submit that Kaneko does not anticipate or obviate the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully urge the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

IV. Conclusion


Having satisfactorily addressed the outstanding issues, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application, he is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.